



Why you may need an on-site inspector for your project

You have a project in mind and have requested your free locates from Ontario OneCall or Info-Excavation. The locator has come out and marked the pipeline, they may have advised that a written agreement is required for your work, and that a Trans-Northern inspector needs to be on site. But what is the role of that inspector?

Trans-Northern's inspector is there to ensure all work is done safely to protect the community, the environment, and the pipeline. Part of the inspector's responsibilities may include:

- Ensure equipment can safely cross over the pipeline – depending on the soil type and the weight of the equipment, additional precautions may need to be taken to prevent a serious incident and injury from occurring from equipment crossing.
- Ensure the work performed near the pipeline and the backfill of exposed pipeline segments does not cause integrity and maintenance issues now – and in the future.
- Ensure the work performed meets the requirements outlined in the crossing agreement or locate report, which outline all the precautions needed to ensure safe work.

Before you begin work, review the conditions provided by the locator and contact a Trans-Northern representative if you have questions. When a Trans-Northern inspector is required, the safety condition is that no excavation activity near the pipeline will begin prior to the inspector's arrival. Without an inspector on site to witness the uncovering of the pipeline,

excavators (you or your contractor) may be faced with the cost of repairs even if the damage was previously caused by others. If the work site is backfilled without an inspector present, re-excavation may be required when the inspector arrives. Regulations require that Trans-Northern be provided the opportunity to inspect its own pipeline prior to backfilling.

LOCATES – WHAT TO EXPECT

You have an outdoor project that will require digging or removal of soil (a ground disturbance), the movement of vehicles and machinery outside of roadways, and/or the installation of a temporary or permanent structure. Before any work begins, you want to be sure that you and anyone performing the work on your behalf knows the location of buried infrastructure, and any activity restrictions around that infrastructure.

- You initiate your free locate request online with Ontario OneCall or Info-Excavation.
- They alert all operators of buried infrastructure in the area.
- Operators send someone to locate and mark their infrastructure; they will then advise of any restrictions on your project, or the need for additional permits or an on-site inspector during work.
- All locates, work requirements and restrictions are in place for you to schedule the start of your project.



Impact of damages to buried infrastructure

The Canadian Common Ground Alliance (CCGA) estimated in 2021 that the societal cost of damages to buried energy and utility infrastructure in Canada is in excess of \$1 billion per year.

The good news is, the number of reported damages has been declining since 2020. The bad news is, more than 8,000 instances of damaged buried infrastructure occurred in 2024.

These incidents can result in serious and even fatal consequences, and the majority are preventable.

In Canada, liability for third-party damage to pipelines can be attributed to the party responsible for the damage if they were negligent or failed to adhere to safety protocols such as obtaining permits for excavation and adhering to the conditions of those permits and established safety standards.



Pipeline operators such as Trans-Northern conduct monitoring of the pipeline right-of-way through aerial and ground patrols to, among other things, ensure no unauthorized activities are taking place that could lead to pipeline damages. Those unauthorized activities are reported to the Canada Energy Regulator (CER), who may also take action against parties who don't adhere to its Damage Prevention Regulations. For example, this spring, the CER issued an Inspection Officer Order to a B.C. nursery as vehicle crossings and ground disturbance activity occurred within the prescribed area of the pipeline, requiring a number of tasks and requirements placed on the nursery.

⚠️ IMPORTANT REMINDERS

**CALL OR CLICK BEFORE
YOU DIG OR CROSS**

We *all* play a role in pipeline safety and damage prevention.



Pipelines are recognized as the safest method of transporting refined petroleum products over long distances. Although pipeline leaks are very rare, it's important to know the signs and what to do if you suspect a leak.

If you suspect a leak due to visible flow or pooling of a petroleum product, an unusual oil stain on land or the appearance of a sheen or bubbles in water, the smell of gasoline or oil, or the appearance of dead or discoloured vegetation on or near the pipeline right-of-way...



Shut down any operating machinery and move to a safe location



Call 9-1-1 if required due to fire or visible product



Call our Emergency line at 1-800-361-0608
Available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

Your safety, and that of the community and the environment, are Trans-Northern's top priority.

Did you
know...

The Trans-Northern Pipelines web site has resources for those who live and work near our pipeline?

These include:

✉ **EMAIL ADDRESS**

📄 **FEEDBACK SURVEY**

TAP TO LEARN MORE

Moving?

New to this address?

Please let us know – contact us at INFO@TNPI.CA today!